



UIAA
Global Youth Summit 2004



Maretlwane (Magaliesberg), South Africa, 22. - 24. 10.2004

To join in with the UIAA Youth Global Summit, the MCSA Magaliesberg Section invited a group of thirty children from Atteridgeville to Maretlwane in the Magaliesberg. These children come from disadvantaged families and have never had opportunities to be out in the mountains.

The children are part of a greening project in Atteridgeville under the auspices of the National Botanical Institute and sponsored by St Mary's DSG Outreach. Five schools are involved and each started an indigenous garden with the aim to learn more about our South African plants and to learn water wise methods of gardening.



The theme of the weekend was Mountain Biodiversity with the aim to expose learners to mountain environments and to gain first hand experiences in nature. The children thoroughly enjoyed this experience and for many it was the first time out in such an unspoilt environment.

The following messages speak for themselves:

I have enjoyed it a lot because I learnt about many things like trees, plants, animals the river and the mountain. Now I know about the importance of nature and it is very, very important because we depend on it. I'd like to say thanks to Maretlwane for the opportunity to come and learn. Thanks very much. *Desmond Ramotshidisi*

I've learnt about indigenous plants which are water wise and seen the beautiful mountains of Magaliesberg. I would like to learn even more about our nature. It has been a great trip!

Daisy Ramut

It's been a pleasure being taught all the things which I didn't know about; like the mountains

which were here for 2 600 million years, which were known by our ancient ancestors and the lovely waterfall and biodiversity. *Favour Makhubela*

Thanks to our sponsors mentioned above and Pretoria Boys High for making their facilities available.